

# BEST AVAILABLE COPY

September 30, 2001.

Prof. Michael M. Meguid  
Metabolism & Nutrition Laboratory  
Department of Surgery  
University Hospital  
SUNY Health Science Center  
Syracuse, NY 13210

Dear Prof. Meguid:

During these past several years, I have been collaborating with you on the pathogenetic mechanisms of obesity and anorexia / cachexia, not only in experimental animals but also in patients. Our collaboration has become closer since I sent one of the members of my research group (Dr. Ohnata) to join your laboratory this summer to do his postdoctoral study with you.

I am very excited to continue our collaboration on the research proposal entitled 'Gastric Bypass in Obesity : Ghrelin-Related Weight Loss'. In Japan there is also an increasing number of obesity patients who received gastric bypass operation. Recently I reported that ghrelin is the first appetite-stimulatory signal from the stomach and that it activates NPY / AGRP pathway in the hypothalamus probably via the vagus nerve. Because the appetite-stimulatory effect of ghrelin is so robust and animals become obese after repetitive peripheral administration, the concept of this project is quite important for understanding the basic mechanisms as well as clinical efficacy of this procedure. In this regard I am happy to collaborate with you through the exchange of information and by providing you with ghrelin antibodies and antibodies to NPY antibodies in addition to visiting your laboratory periodically for information exchange sessions.

I am sure that this will be a successful project and will lead to numerous novel findings in the field of obesity and related areas.

Sincerely yours,



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